

Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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BOMBS TO SET A MINE ON FIRE Gas Direct From Coal-Face to Factory

DRIPPING incendiary bombs down a mine shaft, technicians have deliberately started a fire in a sealed-off 500,000-ton coal bed in Alabama.

The hope of producing gas for industrial purposes from unmined coal lies behind this deliberate firing of the mine, which is being carried out by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in association with industrial interests.

This huge deposit of Alabama coal is actually so thin that it would be unprofitable to mine it in the ordinary way, hence this attempt to provide heating gas and raw materials for synthetic liquid fuel by "mining by fire."

Burning For Centuries

This unusual experiment is a reminder of the hundreds of fires in coal mines which today are still burning continuously in 16 States, as well as Alaska. Some of them have been burning for over 50 years—notably those at New Straitsville in Ohio, and Wilkes-Barre in Pennsylvania. Another one, inside the old Indian-named "Fire Mountain," near Somerset, Colorado, is believed to have been smouldering for several centuries.

Most costly of them all is that of the Hocking Valley of New Straitsville, Ohio. Thousands of pounds have been spent on efforts to check this ever-expanding fire which was started in 1884 by discontented miners running burning coal cars into the mine. In its 65 years of existence, the fire has destroyed hundreds of acres of farm lands and woods; homes have been abandoned, churches and schools left derelict, and parts of highways have caved in. Visitors to the Hocking Valley are amazed at the strange conditions under which the residents live, with smoke and gases pouring out of fissures in the baked ground, and little craters like volcanoes spouting fire and smoke by day and night. Most extraordinary

of all is the fact that oil and gas wells are operated within a few feet of smouldering outcroppings, protected only by concrete casings.

Attempts to control and extinguish this and other coal mine fires have been going on for years. One or two efforts at "gasification" operations have been made, but generally these have failed because the fires are burning too close to the surface, thus allowing gas to seep through at many points. Nevertheless, so great is the damage, both through loss of coal—some million tons a year at least—and by destruction of surface property and good land, that Congress has recently appropriated funds to pay for special control projects. Two major experiments are already under way in Pennsylvania and Western Colorado.

Methods being tried are flooding, excavations, "back filling" with clay and other non-combustible materials, sealing-in sections to contain the fire, and stripping along the coal outcrop.

Controlling the Fires

Unchecked, the fires continue to threaten surface life and property. The seeping gases are dangerous and unhealthy, while the weakening of the ground has caused building foundations and walls to crack. In some areas the heat is so great that it has baked out covering vegetation.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines hopes to extinguish or control all these fires within the next few years.

Vanishing Island

IT KEEPS BOBBING UP AND DOWN

THE volcanic Falcon Island in the Tonga group is on another of its periodic excursions into the ocean depths. It is now under nine fathoms, four more than when the last sounding was taken three years ago.

Since it was first recorded in 1856, this island has been the delight of seismologists and the despair of mariners. It was first only a breaking reef, but in 1877 it appeared as a definite island. Three years later it receded beneath the ocean, leaving only a reef and much superstition among the islanders.

In 1885 Falcon Island made another ascent, shooting up to 150 feet. From then until 1913 it kept bobbing up and down, and then went into what seemed to be permanent retirement. But in 1927, amid much smoke and rumblings, it thrust itself up to 500 feet above water. This time an official party managed to land, planted the Tongan flag, and discovered that Falcon had a steaming lake in its crater.

Once a Soldier—

ARTHUR JOHN BRAND, MBE, ex-Regimental Sergeant-Major, who is 52, is back in harness again. Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery once called him "the super sergeant-major," and before he became known as "The Voice" he was called "old leather lungs," for obvious reasons. Thousands of British officers passed through his hands and heard his voice during the 11 years he served at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was also RSM of the 1st Battalion, Grenadiers.

On retirement RSM Brand went to South Africa and obtained employment as caretaker at a block of offices in Johannesburg. This angered the Guards' Old Comrades Association, who said, "If South Africa can't give Brand a job worthy of his past send him back and we'll fix him up with something." Now he is happy again, for he is back in the Army, running an Officers' Mess.

FASTER BY PLANE

How fast can a tortoise walk? We have never seen it definitely stated, but a Dutch zoologist made quite a spectacular and convincing calculation the other day. He wanted to import a hundred tortoises from South Africa for distribution to European zoos, and he applied for a licence to have them travel by air from Johannesburg.

At first the Union authorities refused; but the Amsterdam zoologist reminded them that if the tortoises had to walk the 6000 miles from South Africa to Holland it would take them 22 years.

It might well be wondered, of course, whether they would ever get there—but he got his licence!

BLOW, BUGLER, BLOW



Three buglers sound the Last Post at the Coldstream Guards' memorial service held in Whitehall, London.

Thousand Islanders in a New Home

A THOUSAND Pacific Islanders have found a new island home. They are the people of Ocean Island, a rocky phosphate deposit in the Gilbert Islands, and they are now living happily on Rambi Island in Fiji.

Ocean Island is little more than 2½ miles square, but before the war it was the headquarters of the British Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony, and every year from its valuable phosphate rocks came thousands of tons of fertilisers for Australian and New Zealand pastures.

When the Japanese came to their island home the Ocean Islanders were treated very badly. Many of them were deported, and in August 1945 the last 150 remaining on Ocean Island were massacred. And when the islanders returned after the war they found their homes destroyed and the island blasted by bombing. But the love of the islanders for their speck in the ocean was strong, and they tried to build up their lives there once more.

Fertile Island

Then came an offer from the Government. Would they all agree to go to live on the beautiful island of Rambi, a thousand miles away in the Fiji Group? Rambi had been purchased from

a trading company. It had plenty of water, tall coconut plantations, and all the makings of a lovely home. So in 1946 some of them went to see for themselves. They reported favourably on Rambi, and the majority of the islanders agreed to make the journey.

Homesick

As soon as the familiar speck faded away on the horizon the Ocean Islanders began to have doubts about their new home. When they landed on Rambi they were homesick. They longed for the barren rocks and phosphate wilderness of their old home. They demanded to go home. It was a difficult time for the friendly Government officials. Gradually, however, the people became reconciled to Rambi. They have seen how fertile the soil is, and what lovely houses can be made out of the Rambi coconut thatch. Moreover, they have got a new school, a new hospital, and a community hall with a film projector.

A recent visitor reports the Ocean Islanders to be "happy, healthy, and smiling." They recognise the beauty and richness of their new homes and are creating a new life instead of pining for the old.

PETS ON PARADE



These London boys and girls are arriving with their pets at an Animals' Hospital for the Children's Dog Show organised by Our Dumb Friends' League. The dogs were judged on points which had nothing to do with pedigrees.

GERMANY'S FUTURE

THE excitement of the lifting of the barriers that made Berlin resemble a city besieged and closed the flow of trade between West and East Germany has its sequel this week in Paris, where the Foreign Ministers are once more assembled to discuss all the outstanding questions connected with the problem of Germany.

Great as the Western Powers' victory in overcoming the Berlin blockade appears, there must be no mistake about the fact that an important diplomatic battle has by no means been decided. It had its ups and downs ever since it started—soon after the Potsdam agreement of July 1945—but it is clear that a decisive stage has now arrived.

The success of the Paris conference will, to a large extent, depend on the unity of Britain, France, and America, whose Foreign Ministers, Mr. Bevin, Mr. Acheson, and M. Schuman, have been meeting in Paris.

Two Major Aims

It is likely that their talks have centred around two major aims. The first of these is to confirm that none of the Western Powers will withdraw from the joint policy they have evolved for Germany. This is particularly important as France, with her bitter experience of German domination, has not always seen eye to eye with Britain and America, which had no such direct experience.

The second aim would be to anticipate what the Russians will say, and prepare suitable answers. This will be probably the more important of the two points for the Council of Four will have to find, if they wish to make progress, a truly new basis on which to tackle the problems of the future of Germany.

It should be remembered that until the last Council meeting, which broke up in December 1947, the Potsdam agreement of 1945 for four-power control of a unified Germany was the basis of discussion. The Potsdam agreement, however, has really ceased to exist. In the past eighteen months the world has witnessed the virtual division of Germany into two countries; for the vast Marshall Plan includes Western Germany but excludes the eastern part of that country because it is dominated by Russia. Plans for creating a separate West German State and a western-controlled Ruhr authority have also been completed.

Likely Discussion

So, the discussion is likely to centre around a Russian demand to the West to abandon the plan for a West German State. But Russia has already failed to stop the Marshall Plan or the Atlantic Pact, and it is difficult to see how she can force her former Allies to change their minds about a West German State. There is only one way they could agree to stop the formation of the West German State and that is if the Russians allowed the Soviet Zone to join up with the West. Only thus would Eastern Germany be in a position to enjoy the benefits of democratic liberty.

In contrast with the previous Four-Power meetings there will be felt in Paris the influence of yet another, though unrepresented, nation—Germany herself. Defeated Germany is slowly raising her head, and a fierce fight is taking place within that

nation to decide its place in the world of today.

When the Berlin blockade was lifted the German Constituent Assembly had completed the first post-Nazi Constitution. It is a document of great vision and great liberalism. Its 147 articles guarantee the Germans greater freedom than they have enjoyed since the pre-Hitler days. It orders them to obey international law and sets up a Government modelled on the American and British systems. This progressive document time and again pledges the German people to peace, bans aggressive war or preparation for aggression, and imposes penalties up to life imprisonment (there is no death penalty under the constitution) for would-be dictators. Finally—a thing unprecedented in modern constitutions—the Bonn Constitution authorises the transfer of German sovereignty to a future United States of Europe.

The Spirit Matters

The Foreign Ministers will most probably take into account this important document, the first expression of a free German will. The setting down of a Constitution does not, of course, mean that it has become a part of the living law of the nation. It is, in fact, the spirit in which a nation conducts business that matters at least as much as the letter of the law. This will have an important bearing on the Paris talks. The Foreign Ministers will be watching Germany's efforts to become democratic in the light not only of the letter of the Bonn Constitution but also of the spirit in which it is likely to be carried out.

This and the difficulty of coming to a firm agreement with Russia indicate that we may yet be some distance from the ultimate goal—the signing of a Peace Treaty with Germany.

A Surgical Advance

A GREAT advance in the teaching of post-graduate students was made recently at Guy's Hospital, London, when a surgical operation was televised for the first time in history.

The Director of the Surgical Department, who conducted the operation, said afterwards: "The use of television is an enormous step forward. In future it will be the only method of teaching surgery."

The camera, similar to the one used to televise indoor events of the Olympic Games, is placed a few feet above the operating table and its lens faces a mirror which reflects the operation. In another room the students gather round a screen, and see the operation in magnified detail. Built into the television, equipment is a microphone, and the students can hear the surgeon's commentary as he works.

Surgeons from all over the country, and later on from America and the Commonwealth, are to be invited to watch standard operations on the television screen.

Salute the Empire!

TUESDAY, May 24, is Empire Day, when many millions of people overseas look towards "home" with loyalty and affection.

The day has now been extended to the week, with Sunday May 29 this year being celebrated as Empire Youth Sunday in churches of every denomination.

In order to help young people to understand more fully the purpose and meaning of the church services, the Empire Youth Sunday Committee of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been conducting a nation-wide campaign to help local organisers to obtain suitable books, films, and picture sets, and also the personal services of lecturers, including visitors from British overseas territories who are now in these islands.

A Free Association

The term "British Empire" has recently tended to become "The British Commonwealth of Nations." This is because the British Empire no longer signifies a collection of distant territories under the absolute rule of Britain. It is today, for the most part, a free association of self-governing nations, closely united by ties of friendship and self-interest, but with no bond other than a common loyalty to the Crown. It has been defined as "the greatest union of free peoples in the world, covering nearly a quarter of the land surface of the globe, and including about a quarter of the human race—some 500 million souls."

The Commonwealth proper consists of the United Kingdom, and the Dominions (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ceylon, India, and Pakistan). The Colonies, Mandated Territories, and Protectorates make up what is known as the Dependent Empire.

The Dominions were defined in the Declaration of Lord Balfour as "autonomous self-governing" communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth."

The Colonial Empire is made up not only of naval and trading stations but of still adolescent peoples over whom the British Parliament at Westminster temporarily stands tutor and guardian. These, too, in the fullness of time will attain to full and independent nationhood and remain, if they so elect, within the structure of the Commonwealth.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

WHEN Arthur Mee, founder of the CN, died six years ago this week an old friend paid a beautiful tribute to him in this newspaper as the "eager champion of all good works in human endeavour." The friend, Sir John Hammerton, has now himself died at 78, working to the last.

Sir John produced instructive and entertaining books which have contributed very much to that knowledge and understanding of human affairs of which he was a devoted student.

His natural courage and joy in living will ever be an inspiration to all who knew him and helped him in his great work.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

OLD MASTERS

At the Tate Gallery is a wonderful exhibition of 200 paintings from Vienna, including works by Tintoretto, Titian, Rembrandt, and Velasquez. Among other art treasures displayed is a golden salt-cellar made by Benvenuto Cellini in 1539.

The late superintendent of Gunnersbury Park, Acton, is to be commemorated by a newly-planted beech tree encircled with flowers.

The British Museum has been enriched by 5000 prints, 135 drawings, and several illustrated books bequeathed by Mr Campbell Dodgson, for 20 years keeper of the Department of Prints and Drawings.

The State of Israel has become the 59th member of U.N.

All in Order

The Gladstone papers in the British Museum—over 200,000—have been arranged in 750 volumes. A catalogue prepared by Mr A. Tilney Bassett is soon to be printed.

The number of fatal accidents in British mines last year was 467, the lowest ever recorded. Between 1900 and 1920 the yearly average was 1200.

In a cycling test for children which was arranged by Bexhill road safety committee all the entrants failed.



Camberwell children were more than ready to assist in the disposing of headwear from an Army dump. This youngster seems highly delighted with his prize.

A collection of 120 letters written by Robert Louis Stevenson to his friend Sir Sidney Colvin has been sold in London for £550.

An important new Atlantic air base has been opened at Ilha do Sal in the Cape Verde Islands.

CAT AND MOUSE

A cat on a Chepstow farm has adopted a mouse and is bringing it up with her own kitten in a hayrick.

The old English ceremony of Blessing the Plough was recently observed in a church near Melbourne, Australia. Four farmers wheeled the plough to church behind a procession of clergy.

An unusual British export is a motorised rickshaw for the Far East. It has had a trial run from John o' Groats to Land's End.

A gilded state coach used by Queen Victoria has gone to Baghdad and will be the state coach of the ruler of Iraq.

Net Result

In winning a Gravesend Scouts' football competition the 1st Galley Hill Swanscombe Troop scored 66 goals and did not concede one.

An old fire station in Folkestone is to become a Christmas cracker factory.

Morocco is to send 50 million tins of sardines to Britain this year—42 million more than last year.

A prize of £2100 has been offered by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, an industrialist of Bombay, for the best translation into English of the Ramayana, the Hindu epic poem.

The aeroplane in which Blériot flew the Channel in 1909 was recently flown again for a few minutes by a British test pilot.

Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India, is to visit America in the autumn on the invitation of President Truman.

NON-SWIMMERS

The council for the Promotion of Education in Swimming has found that half of Britain's young adults cannot swim, and that only half the schools teach swimming.

Following suggestions in Parliament it may one day be possible to dial WEA on the phone and obtain a local weather forecast.

Mr Neville Duke, flying a Hawker Fury plane, has set up two new records: London to Rome (about 1000 miles) in 2 hours 32 minutes 58 seconds—17 minutes less than the previous record; and London to Karachi (3930 miles) in 15 hours 20 minutes—3 hours 54 minutes less.

Four performances of Hia-watha are being given at the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, London (May 26 to 29) by a cast of 1300 and the Coleridge Taylor Symphony Orchestra conducted by Miss Avril Coleridge Taylor.

A correspondence course has been organised by the National Canine Defence League to help owners to train disobedient dogs—especially in road sense.

The record for a flight from London to Paris was broken recently by a Hawker P1052 jet aircraft which flew the distance in 21 minutes 27.4 seconds. The previous record was 27 minutes 38 seconds.

A mallard has hatched a brood of seven ducklings in a fire-service water tank in Portugal Street, London.

Last March 11,577 people were killed and injured on the roads of Britain. Of these 334 were killed and 2831 seriously injured.

Spot of Bother

A sunspot recently caused the failure of radio transmissions in various parts of the world.

A team of English archers took part in a contest at the French town of St Emilion when the ancient festival of the Jurade (medieval town council) was revived there recently. The contest commemorated one between French and English archers held there 600 years ago.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Mr Victor Warren, recently saved a friend from drowning when the boat from which they were fishing capsized in Loch Arkaig, Inverness-shire.



Getting Up to It

A Welsh player and a member of the Scottish team leap for the ball during the recent international netball match between Scotland and Wales at Wembley.

A Rope to Cut Rock

A SLATE quarry in Cornwall is trying out a new sort of rock cutter, which promises to be more efficient than the older methods. It is nothing more or less than cutting the rock by means of a moving rope, just as a wire cuts cheese.

Half a mile of wire rope, running on pulleys, gives the rope ample time to cool down after its bout with the rock. With the addition of sand at the cutting face, the friction of the fast-moving rope enables the slate to be cut out of the earth in neat chunks, and the percentage of breakage is much less than with blasting and other methods.

The quarry is at present mining 25 tons of slate a day, but it is hoped to step this up considerably soon.

BIG-HEARTED HOWORTH

WHEN Worcestershire and Warwickshire meet at the beautiful Worcester ground on Saturday all eyes will be on Dick Howorth, for this big-hearted all-rounder will be taking a well-earned benefit.

During his 15 years with Worcestershire Howorth has been the mainstay of the attack with his skilful left-arm slow spin bowling, and he has always been a dependable batsman. Three times he has performed the cricketer's "double" of 100 wickets and 1000 runs in a season. He made his Test debut against South Africa at the Oval in 1947, when he took a wicket with his first ball, and eventually captured six wickets. During the following winter he played in all four Tests against the West Indies.

Dick Howorth, a Lancashire man, has given his adopted county of his best and he deserves a bumper benefit.

NOISY NESTING SITE

ON a stretch of railway line between Skipton and Gargrave in Yorkshire an oyster catcher has laid three eggs. The eggs, a mottled yellow in colour which blends perfectly with the surrounding stones, are laid between the two sets of tracks along which expresses thunder at 70 m.p.h.

One hundred and fifty trains pass the nest every day, but the two parent birds remain undaunted. When a train is about to pass the sitting bird flies off, circles until the danger is past, and then returns to the nest again.

State Hospital Library

SOUTHMEAD HOSPITAL, Bristol, has the first library installed in this country since the hospitals were taken over by the State. Designed and equipped on new lines to serve both patients and hospital staff, it was opened by Sir Ronald Adam, President of the Library Association.

The library is within the hospital precincts and can be visited by patients and staff in the ordinary way; but for the benefit of patients unable to visit it, the librarian will visit each ward at regular intervals with a book trolley.

THE LONG LONGLEYS

YEARS ago so many members of the Foster family played cricket for Worcestershire that that county team came to be known as Fostershire.

The Balmain (New South Wales) Rugby football club looks like earning a similar reputation. Five brothers Longley are playing for that club this season; and two more will probably be joining it next year.

The remarkable thing about Frank, Gordon, Bill, Ken, and Jim Longley is that the smallest is 5 feet 11 inches tall. Three are over six feet.

A CHANCE TO LEARN TO FLY

MANY lads wish to learn to fly, but private flying is so costly nowadays that they have had no opportunity of doing so. Now some of them will have a chance, for the Air League of the British Empire has started a scheme under which young men of the A.T.C. aged between 16½ and 17½ will be able to gain scholarships to attend courses at flying schools where, if they pass their tests, they will be trained to the standard of the new Private Pilot's Licence.

They will carry out 30 hours of training at week-ends or mid-weekly and will finish with two weeks of continuous training at a flying school. The value of the scholarship will be about £120, for free messing and accommodation will be provided at the flying school. The cadets will wear uniform while training.

Mrs. Pretorius of Pretoria

THE Mayor and Councillors of the City of Pretoria, administrative capital of the Union of South Africa, took part in a unique ceremony recently.

They went to a farm at Pelindaba, outside the city, to present an illuminated address to Mrs. C. M. Pretorius.

The occasion was the 102nd birthday of Mrs. Pretorius, who married the son of Marthinus Wessels Pretorius, first president of the South African Republic and founder of Pretoria.

Addressing Mrs. Pretorius, who was in very good spirits, the Mayor said: "You are the oldest living member of the family whose history is so closely connected with that of Pretoria. Your story is that of the Transvaal and we pray that you will be long spared as a noble link between us and the glorious past."

Highland Resources

IN days long past it used to be said that there was nothing north of the Forth but mountains, peat, and wild Highlanders. Today more and more attention is being paid to the Highlands and it has just been announced that the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board is to make a survey of the Highlands to find how best the raw materials there could be developed by the use of electricity.

New technical processes, it is believed, may lead to the commercial exploitation, on the spot, of raw materials and minerals, such as limestone, felspar, talc, diatomite, clays, and gravels.

STAMP NEWS

THE new set of airmail stamps is now complete. The 1d shows the angel which summoned St. Patrick to his mission. The 1s shows St. Patrick's angel flying over Glendalough of the Seven Churches, Leinster.

NORWAY has issued a stamp to commemorate author Alexander L. Kielland, who was born 100 years ago.

A NEW Argentine stamp commemorates the first anniversary of the ownership of the State railways which were purchased from Britain.

THREE hundred and sixty pounds was paid recently for a cover bearing a Newfoundland three-cent airmail stamp which was carried by H. G. Hawker on his Atlantic flight in 1919.

Runway in a Hurry

IN a recent C.N. we told of the hazardous journey young Kevin Callaghan of Northern Queensland made across the Australian Bush to get to hospital. A reader has sent us the following story of another unusual journey to hospital, this time in America.

The wife of a rancher in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, fell seriously ill early this year and an emergency operation was absolutely necessary. The small hospital at Jackson Hole could not tackle the operation, and so the patient had to be got to Salt Lake City.

This journey sounds comparatively easy, but there is no

railway from Jackson Hole and the mountain roads were impassable as the winter snows were still very deep. The only other way she could be transported to hospital was by aeroplane, but the mail planes had not been able to land for three weeks on account of the snow.

The problem was really serious. Then the head of the Government Wild Animal Reserve had a brilliant idea. Some 3000 moose were driven across a field to trample the snow down, and so enabled a plane to land. The patient weathered the journey comfortably, and when she reached Salt Lake City was operated on successfully.

ROUND THE HORN UNDER SAIL

THE chance to travel to England by windjammer around Cape Horn is being offered in Australia.

Six passages to Britain are available on the four-masted barque *Passat* which is leaving Port Victoria early in June, and the cost of each passage is £200. The journey is expected to take about 100 days, depending on the weather. This may be the last voyage of the *Passat*.

Art Centre in a Famous Park

THE Society of the Friends of Clumber has been formed to develop Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, which is in the care of the National Trust, as a centre of the arts. It is intended that periodic divine worship, concerts, and recitals shall take place in Clumber Church, which is at present unused. With pinnaled tower and graceful spire, this is the 19th-century chapel of the Dukes of Newcastle.

A cricket ground nearby is to be used for open-air dramatic performances.

Cornets For Shandy

THE other day the daughter of a Sydney business man interrupted her shopping expedition in Manly to buy—and eat—an ice-cream cornet.

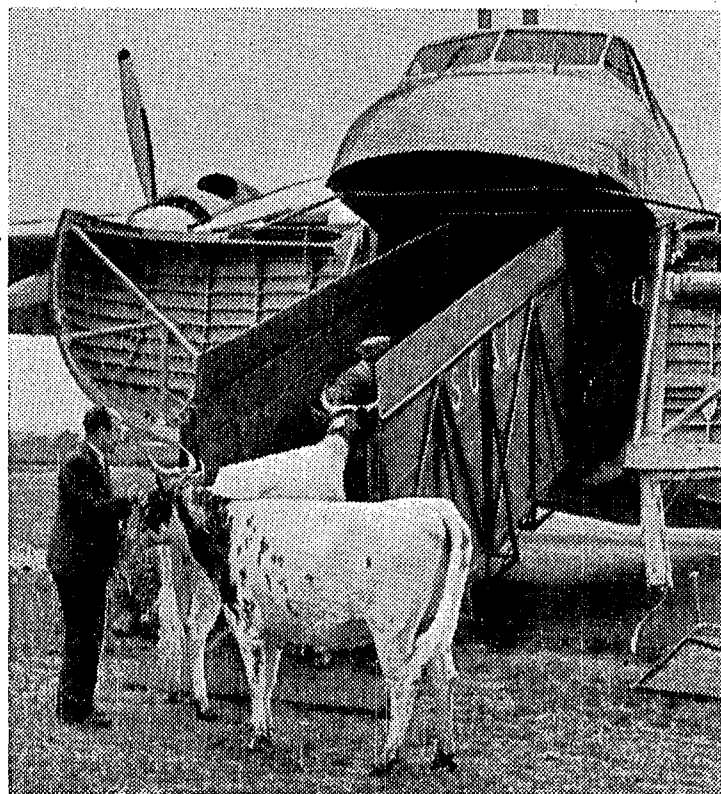
When the vendor looked up from his icecream bucket, he saw a large dog, with his paws on the counter, beside his fair customer. It was Shandy, carrier of the young lady's parcels when she was shopping.

The shopman could not resist the Great Dane's appealing look, so he gave him a cornet all to himself. That generous gesture started something. Shandy has been back to that icecream shop twice a day ever since; and Shandy's owner has opened an icecream account for the persistent visitor to the Manly ice-cream shop.

SCHOOL ENTENTE

AN education officer who has arranged 600 exchanges between French and English school-children has just completed a lecture tour in France. He is Mr. John Newsom, County Education Officer for Hertfordshire.

He has promoted visits of French schoolboys and students to Hertfordshire County Camp.



Airborne Cattle

A herd of 33 cattle flew—in four flights—to Malta recently in a Bristol Freighter aircraft. Here we see some of the cows being taken aboard at Blackbushe Airport in Surrey.



Visitors From Pakistan

These three Pakistani children in their colourful costumes were among the guests at a reception held at the Islamic Cultural Centre in London.

VENUS APPROACHING SATURN

By the C.N. Astronomer

The planet Venus is now coming into the evening sky, and apparently taking the place so recently occupied by Mercury.

She may be seen soon after sunset very low in the west, shining very brightly with her silvery lustre, but as she will be not far above the horizon the sky there needs to be clear.

Mercury, which has been present for the last fortnight, is now becoming difficult to perceive through the bright twilight, as he comes more between our world and the Sun. There is, however, the possibility of seeing both Venus and Mercury together on the evenings of May 25, 26, and 27, for then the much more brilliant Venus will at first appear a little way to the right of and below Mercury, until by the 27th they will have approached quite near to each other, and Venus will appear above Mercury.

But the chance of glimpsing Mercury within about half an hour or so after sunset will be small. Soon Mercury will vanish, and on June 3 pass almost between the Earth and the Sun, after which he will begin to recede.

It is otherwise with Venus; she is approaching, and will later in the year be a prominent object in the west after sunset. At present she is very much farther away than Mercury and about 150 million miles distant, presenting towards us an almost circular disc. It will be of interest during the next two months to watch the gradual approach of Venus to Saturn, which at present is high in the south-west at mid-evening.



Saturn may be found with the aid of our star-map, appearing very close to the bright star Regulus and a little above it. Saturn appears somewhat brighter than the star, their apparent proximity making them very easy to identify. Actually they are an immense distance apart, Regulus being about 460,000 times farther away than Saturn, and as Saturn is now nearly 870 million miles away we realise how truly immense this distance between them must be.

Saturn is receding from us now at the rate of about a million miles a day, so his apparent brilliance is diminishing. Consequently, instead of approaching Venus, he is in reality travelling away from her, and it is merely the effect of perspective that Saturn appears to be going to meet Venus. After July 31, when Saturn will appear very close to Venus, we shall see but little more of him in the evening sky.

When Saturn reappears in the morning sky next October his Ring System will have nearly closed up, and will present the curious shape of a double-convex lens seen edgewise. It is about fourteen years since Saturn has presented such a spectacle, which is an effect of the plane of the Ring System passing through the Earth, or being on the same level, as it were, of the Earth.

As Saturn takes 29 years and 167 days to complete a revolution in his orbit, it therefore takes nearly fifteen years for the Earth and Saturn to come back to a similar relative position and return to the same level.

This state of things they are now approaching, and it will last for about a year. During this time the Rings will appear as a thin straight line of light across the planet's sphere and extending for a distance almost equal to its width on each side of it. The Rings will finally appear to vanish altogether for a few days. Saturn therefore promises to be of great interest later on.

G. F. M.

NEW CAPITAL ON THE RHINE

By 33 votes as against 29 in favour of Frankfurt the West German Constituent Assembly have chosen Bonn as their capital. A C.N. correspondent who knows this city well has sent us these notes.

If you should ever go down the Rhine by steamer you will agree that the German politicians have made a very good choice, for Bonn is a town dignified through having a University, its near neighbour Bad Godesberg is an attractive spa where people drink waters for their health, and Koenigswinter, across the river, is a pleasant little place nestling at the foot of the Siebengeberge (Seven Mountains).

During the war Bonn received a fair amount of damage, partly because there is an important bridge crossing the river just there, and partly because an aircraft factory had been built on its outskirts. By the time you are able to make that trip, however, the hotels on the Rhine will have been rebuilt and the promenade and public gardens restored.

Bonn can trace its beginnings back to Roman times when, as Bonna or Castra Bonnensia, it was one of 50 fortresses erected in 10 B.C.; but it was of little importance in German history until 1273, when the Archbishop of Cologne transferred himself and his government there (in those days archbishops often ruled like kings). Later on it suffered many sieges, and round about 1689 our own Duke of Marlborough took part in one.

Beethoven's Birthplace

Bonn is also well known as the birthplace of the famous composer, Beethoven. The house where he was born is kept as a Beethoven museum. Luckily it escaped damage and all its interesting contents are intact.

Bad Godesberg is where Chamberlain met Hitler during the summer of 1938. There are some very fine streets and houses in the town, and on the top of the hill is a 13th-century castle from which you can get a lovely view of the Rhine and the surrounding country.

Koenigswinter is perhaps the best place in which to stay, for not only has it the joys of the river—swimming, boating, and watching tugs and barges of all nations go by—but from here you can explore the wooded, vine-clad Siebengeberge. You can go by rack and pinion railway up the St Petersburg, then walk down into a delightful valley and up the Drachenfels, and then down again by another funicular. The Drachenfels (Dragon's Rock), 1066 feet high, is where the legendary hero Siegfried slew the mighty dragon which prevented him from reaching the maiden he wished to marry. To this day the red wine made from the grapes grown on the hillside there is called Drachenblut, or "Dragons' Blood."

MANSSION MUSEUM

In this year's estimates of expenditure Kent Education Committee has allowed £10,000 for restoring Foots Cray Place, a Palladian mansion at Sidcup, and for its establishment as a museum for children and a centre for the development of a circulating museum service for north-west Kent schools.

C.N. ZOO CORRESPONDENT WRITES ABOUT...

A Queer Friendship, a Blue-Tongued Skink, and an Orphan Wallaby

UNUSUAL animal "chums" are always interesting, and at the London Zoo, as in most big animal collections, these queer friendships crop up with gratifying frequency.

One that is amusing visitors a good deal just now can be seen at the reptile house, where a baby broad-fronted crocodile and an equally youthful Mississippi alligator—both, as it happens, "ex-pets"—are amicably sharing a den.

The crocodile, which came over here last year from West

about 12 inches, and as long as they continue to grow at about the same rate all will be well. If, however, one should grow faster than the other, a separation will probably have to be decreed or the larger partner would probably start bullying the smaller.

ANOTHER interesting newcomer to the reptile section, at present living alone, is a remarkably fine blue-tongued skink (desert lizard) sent by air from Australia. This animal, which measures 18 inches, was caught by a business man as he was motoring from Darwin to Alice Springs.

When passing through some hot dense scrub about 30 miles south of Darwin, the motorist saw the skink run across the track. He stopped the car, jumped out, and caught the reptile by throwing his coat over it. He then transferred it to a suitcase, but had to exercise much care as, although the skink is not venomous, it has a formidable bite. On arrival at the Zoo the skink was so ravenous that Mr J. W. Lester, the reptile curator, had to dash off to his private house to get some bananas and grapes for it.

Remarkable features about this newcomer from the Australian desert are its vivid blue tongue, seen to advantage when it is feeding; and the eyelids, which have a little "window" in the middle—a provision of Nature to enable the skink to see without getting sand in its eyes.

IN the sanatorium just now is one of the most pathetic baby animals the menagerie has seen for a long time. It is a little Bennett's wallaby who had the misfortune to lose its mother. Its life, however, is not despaired of, for it is being most successfully reared in an artificial pouch! Officials have rigged up an electric blanket in the folds of which the baby sleeps happily enough, since the heat is maintained at a level approximating the mother wallaby's blood temperature. The baby has accepted this contrivance with zest. C.H.



The little orphan wallaby in his electric blanket

Africa, is taken from his cage daily for petting by visitors, and until recently lived alone. A few weeks ago, however, the Zoo was given a baby alligator which had been the pet of two children in a Florida home. And, as the alligator was as docile as the crocodile, the pair were introduced to each other. Now, the "good companions"—the one hatched on the Gold Coast, the other in USA—are proving as amiable with each other as they are with humans. Not even at mealtimes, when both are given meat and earthworms, is there any squabbling.

The duration of this queer partnership will depend upon events. Both reptiles measure



Armsful of mischief at the London Zoo—Sally, So-So, Compo, and Susan, the baby chimpanzees

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Will Man Travel Round the World by Rocket?

Our great-grandfathers were amazed at the possibility of travelling round the world in 80 days, and now rocket enthusiasts are looking to the not-too-distant future when, they believe, rocket flights round the world in little more than an hour may be possible. So we have asked Mr Harry Harper, who was the first air reporter and has written books on rocket flight, to tell us something of what the rocket men are doing now.

BRITISH and American scientists, experimenting with huge wireless-controlled projectiles on a great rocket range in Australia, and in vast desert zones in New Mexico, have just set themselves two new and fascinating tasks, writes Mr Harper.

One of these undertakings, by aerial "soundings" taken at vast heights, may enable us to find out with accuracy what our weather is going to be like for much farther ahead than is possible today—perhaps for weeks and even months.

By another of the great researches, now in progress with rockets capable of ascending to vast heights and there attain-

arranged height, and then the smaller rocket took off from its "mother" projectile and went on climbing till it had reached the record height of approximately 250 miles above the Earth!

In the nose of the rocket were special recording instruments, and when the rocket had reached the top of its climb these instruments, attached to a parachute, were released from the rocket by an automatic device, and returned to Earth.

By studying the figures these instruments had recorded as the rocket ascended, and also from other tests already made with high-flying rockets, experts can now gain information never

been possible to penetrate so far, either by observation planes or pilotless instrument-carrying balloons.

Giant rockets, penetrating into the highest zones of atmosphere round our globe, will give us new information about the movement of great upper air "tides," and of vast rapidly-moving wind streams which, as their influence becomes felt in our lower zones, may give us gales, fogs, snow, or rain, or some of those spells of really settled fine weather which we all enjoy so much. Such rockets, equipped with special recording instruments, will give us answers to weather puzzles which have always baffled our experts.

So much for the high-flying rocket, as an aid to weather science. But there is another immense boon that wireless-controlled long-range rockets can bring us. Rushing up to vast heights, under constant wireless control, they can be made to span oceans and continents at speeds impossible by any other means. And such distance-devouring rockets, flying at a speed of thousands of miles an hour, can be fitted with containers carrying express mails or other urgent commercial loads.

Already experts in Britain and America are considering plans for a super-express North Atlantic rocket mail. Roaring up from a despatch station on this side of the Atlantic, one of these great postal rockets would be held within a guiding wireless beam till it had reached an immense height above mid-Atlantic. Then it would be transferred to the control of another beam focussed skyward from the American side of the ocean; after which, as the rocket began to descend at terrific speed, further wireless guiding signals would be transmitted to it which would bring into gradual operation special braking devices. These would slow it up as it came over the landing area, and when it drew near the ground the mail container in its nose would be released automatically to make its final descent by parachute. Calculations have shown that the complete journey could be made in about half an hour!

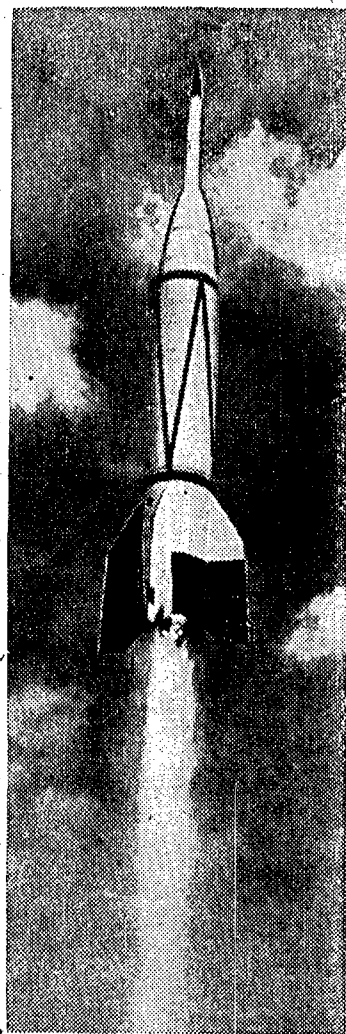
Now does this complete the marvels likely to come. What some designers now have in mind, looking into the future, is a form of wonder-craft which will be part aeroplane and part rocket, and

which will be capable of carrying passengers as well as mails.

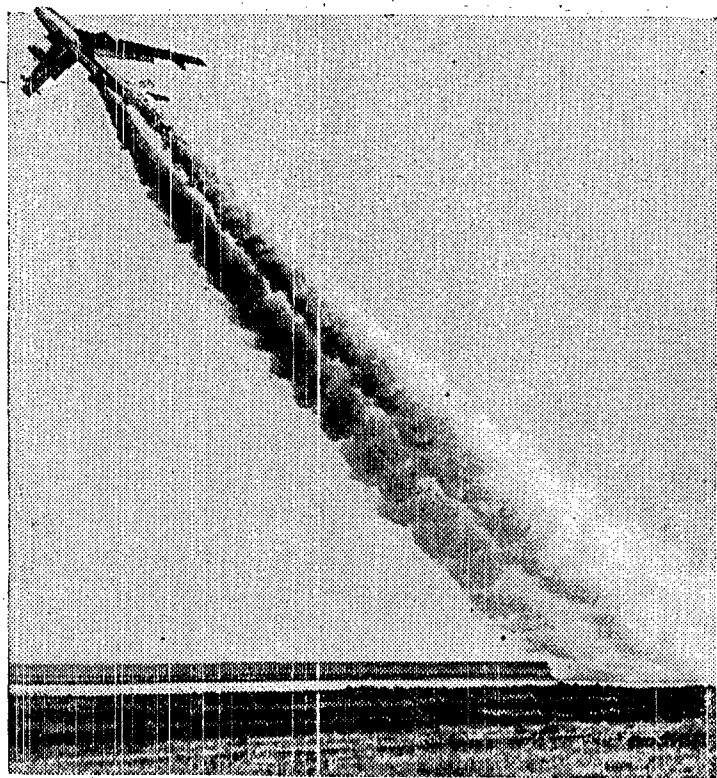
Such a machine would, it is reckoned, leave the ground with outstretched telescopic metal wings and be driven skywards by a battery of immensely powerful jet engines. Up it would climb, higher and higher, swiftly gathering speed. Then its metal wings would be retracted, or made smaller, and by degrees it would take the shape of a huge almost wingless projectile, or rocket, rushing at greater and greater speeds under the power of a rocket propulsion plant to which the engineers would have switched over. This plant would need no intake of air, as does jet propulsion, and would therefore operate just as efficiently at vast, airless heights above the Earth's atmosphere as would the machine's jet plant in lower zones. And of course the passengers, in special pressurised saloons, would breathe as easily as when on the ground.

Climbing perhaps several hundred miles high, right up into those outer spaces above our Earth's belt of atmosphere, such a rocket-plane would reduce to just an hour or so voyages round the globe which now take weeks. And when the time came to descend, its telescopic wings would be gradually extended again.

In these coming days of super-speed space travel, as a scientist was reminding us only recently, our very lives will seem to be growing longer, because we shall be able to see so much more, and do so much more, in any given period of days, months, or years.



The upper part of this rocket rose 250 miles. The photograph below was taken 60 miles above New Mexico. Shadows of the clouds can be seen on the Earth.



Boosted by eighteen auxiliary rockets, an American jet-plane zooms into the air at a steep angle after making a short run.

ing momentous speeds, we may find ourselves able to send urgent mails above continents and oceans at such a rate that a bag of express letters would reach New York from London in not more than about half an hour!

Such wonders, and others too, are likely to come about by the building, and flying under wireless control, of huge rockets attaining speeds of thousands of miles an hour.

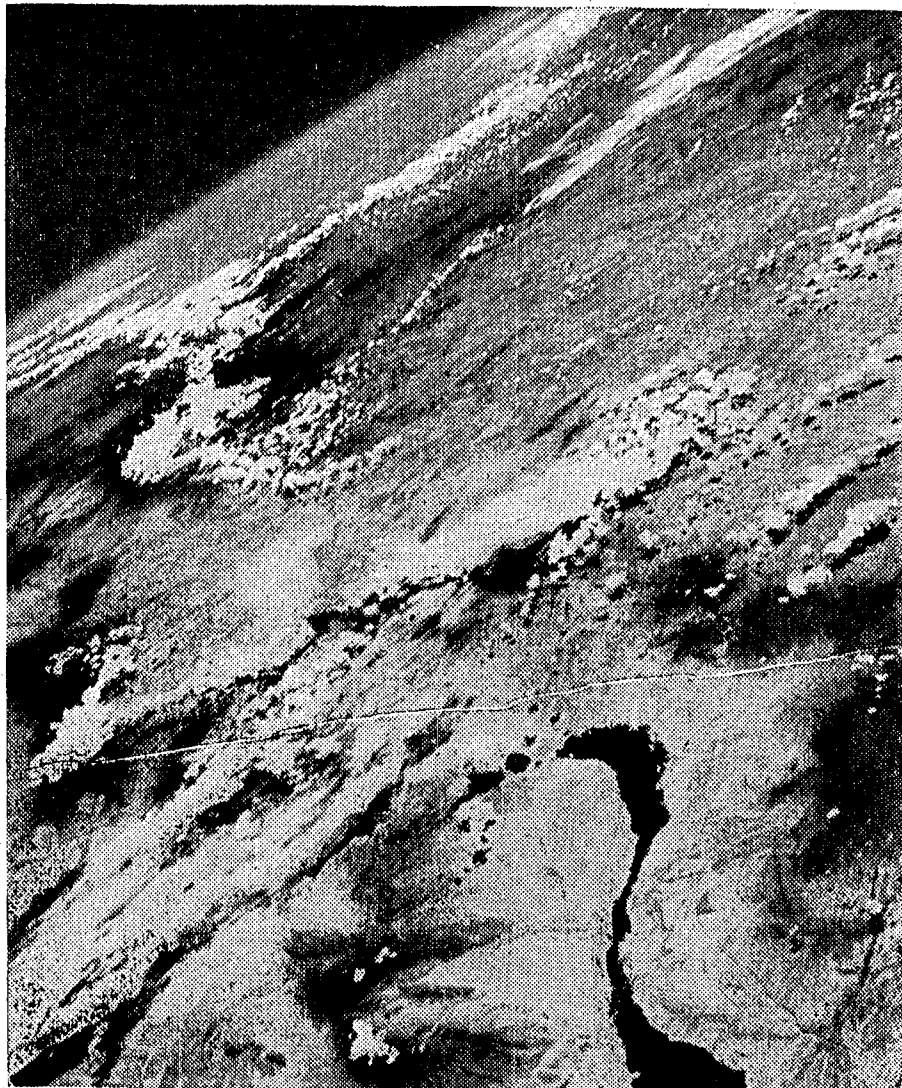
ALREADY this great adventure is in its first experimental stages.

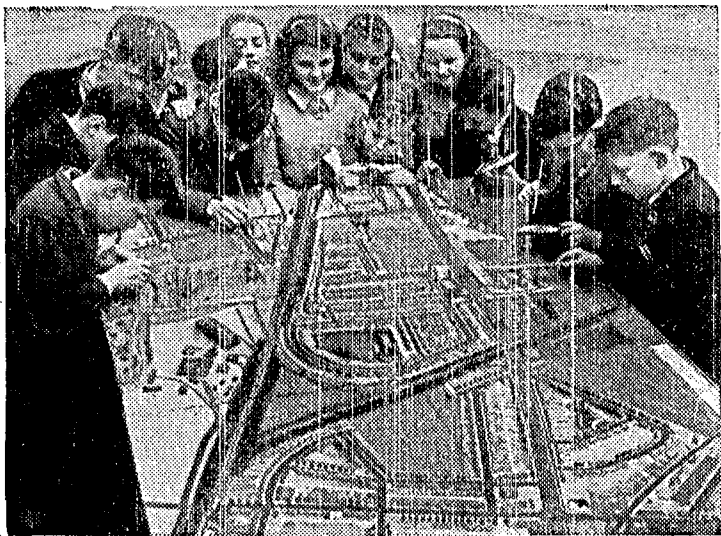
Out in a lonely desert area of New Mexico, American scientists are operating a special rocket research station. Here, recently, they launched a specially-equipped two-step rocket—a projectile having as its lower portion one of the German V2 rockets, the upper part being a small rocket designed and built by American technicians. The big V2 carried this smaller rocket up to a certain pre-

obtainable before as to atmospheric pressure and temperature at great heights above the Earth.

Such "soundings" of the upper air are being made not only from New Mexico but also from stations elsewhere. In Australia a great rocket range has been established which stretches for more than 1000 miles across vast desert zones from a point north of Adelaide to the famous Ninety-mile Beach on the shores of the Indian Ocean. American scientists, as well of those of Britain, will be making use of this great range, above which giant rockets will be flown under wireless control, being guided from one to another of a series of stations dotted along the range.

The idea of using rockets for weather research is briefly this: Our experts now know that the sort of conditions we have at earth level are really governed by what is going on in zones lying very high indeed above the Earth—zones which it has not





Learning by Doing

The fourth-year junior children of Selborne School, Perivale, Middlesex, are here seen at work on their 90-foot-to-the-inch model of the area within one mile radius of the school. To get accurate details the children surveyed the area, using a home-made plane table to plot the positions of landmarks.

England as a Republic

IN these days when India becomes a republic and yet remains associated with the British Commonwealth of Nations it is interesting to remember that 300 years ago this month England herself was proclaimed a republic.

"England," so ran the Act of May 19, 1649, after the king was executed and the House of Lords abolished, "shall henceforth be governed as a Commonwealth and Free State by the supreme authority of this nation, the representatives of the people in Parliament, and by such as they shall appoint and constitute under them for the good of the people."

While it lasted the Commonwealth brought renown and respect to England, and, however it is regarded, it remains a notable period in our history.

On one side the Republic was threatened with anarchy at home, and with the possibility of a foreign invasion on the other. So Englishmen rallied to carry on the government, and foremost among them was Oliver Cromwell, whose great influence with the army gave him the key position.

When two months after the Republic's proclamation Cromwell set out on his duties as commander-in-chief in Ireland, he rode out of London in magnificent state. He was driven in a coach with six whitish-grey horses drawing it. Many other coaches

accompanied him, and many great officers of the army. His lifeguard consisted of 80 men in stately uniforms, and according to a contemporary description "the trumpets sounding almost to the shaking of Charing Cross." Cromwell said that in arranging such a procession he was determined to honour the Republic and not himself.

Respect for the Commonwealth began to grow. The soldiers and sailors won great victories, and England's name was feared abroad.

The Republic lasted only four years. All the respected foundations of English life, Crown and Lords had disappeared, Church and Commons had no power, and men wearied of those who preached themes of equality but could not practise them. So the nation turned to its one great man, Cromwell, and, in all but name, he became king.

As Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell took the country under his wing, trying to translate the hopes and dreams of his republican friends into the pattern of a living government. It was a well-nigh impossible task, but the fact that Cromwell partially succeeded was due to his resolute character. At his death it soon became clear that England dislikes a one-man government and prefers an elected parliament which both king and people acknowledge as supreme.

METHODISM'S GRAND OLD MAN

A METHODIST minister for 73 years, Dr J. Scott Lidgett is to "sit down," according to Methodist phraseology. This he announced at the recent May Synod of the London South District.

For the last sixty years he has lived and worked in Bermondsey, ministering to the spiritual and cultural as well as the physical well-being of the people, and for 58 of these has been warden of the Bermondsey Settlement.

When during the war his friends sought to persuade him to leave the district for safer areas he replied: "When I go out they will have to carry me feet first." And so through all

the bombing this grand old scholar and saint shared discomfort and danger with those whom he loved and served.

Now, at the age of 95, his doctors have persuaded him to rest.

Dr Scott Lidgett was born at Lewisham. A distinguished scholar and theologian, he has been a member of the Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church, for over sixty years—a record of service bettered only by John Wesley himself. He played a great part in the negotiations which led to Methodist Union in 1932, and in that year was chosen as President of the first United Conference.

Honest John of Todmorden

ON May 29 just a hundred years ago died John Fielden of Todmorden, affectionately known to all the workers of the north of England as Honest John.

A millowner whose charity began at home, Honest John was elected M.P. for Oldham in 1832 and immediately became the workman's champion and friend, forever agitating for reform in the mills and factories.

Especially was he concerned with the conditions under which children were compelled to work.

Unhappy Children

Children from eight to 12 years of age were employed in the cotton factories—many of them collected from workhouses in London—and were confined to work in close rooms often during the whole night. Under the Factories' Apprentice system parish apprentices were sent without inquiry or thought from the workhouses in London and the public charities in Scotland to the factories, to be used, in John Fielden's words, "as the cheapest raw material in the market." The millowner or his agent inspected them just as a slave-master used to inspect his slaves; they were examined, bargains were struck, and the victims conveyed to the mills.

Their food was stunted, coarse, and unwholesome. The mills were worked day and night, and as one set of children rose for labour the other set retired to rest. No discrimination was made between boys and girls. All had to work until they almost dropped asleep at their spindles.

Not until 1802 was the question of factory labour and legislation brought before Parliament, but during the following 50 years a succession of reformers, including the first Sir Robert Peel, Robert Owen, and John Fielden agitated for improved conditions.

A 58-Hour Week

The Ten Hours Act introduced by Fielden was the most drastic factory reform measure of the century, for it stated that "from and after the 1st day of October 1847 no young person should be employed in any factory more than ten hours in any one day, or more than 58 hours in any one week."

Today it seems incredible that society would permit children to work even 58 hours; but in those days it was regarded as a great humanitarian Act, and Honest John deserves remembrance for the part he played in drawing attention to a great evil.

WORKERS' PARADE



Printing flags for the Union of South Africa at a Leeds factory.

The Editor's Table

THE PLAY'S THE THING

IT is reported that over one hundred small theatres in this country are now busy each week providing work for young actors and entertainment for the people. Add to this figure the many thriving theatres in London and the Provinces, and the countless amateur dramatic societies which produce one or two plays a year, and you have a picture of an ancient art which is as vigorous as ever.

It is good news that scattered about our land there are many thousands of young people who like acting. It means that they are fascinated not only by the arts of the cinema, radio, and television, but are still loyal to the living drama, the oldest art of all. It means that in spite of many other attractions the living stage is holding its own; that the young people belonging to the same race as Shakespeare, Sheridan, and Ben Jonson are still faithful to a great tradition.

It is also true that more people than ever are enjoying the fun of dressing up, learning a part, attending rehearsals, and enduring the breathless anxiety of "the night." All this is an encouraging sign in our common life. To be active in the arts is far better than to be always a spectator. Even if the costumes are home-made and the scenery constructed by the village carpenter, still "the play's the thing." To enjoy his part, and thereby to give enjoyment, is a fine and happy reward for the young actor. In portraying "the many parts" of the family of men, he adds to the true fun and frolic of life.

The Average Decent Sort of Bloke

SPEAKING to Southern Rhodesian pupils at Umtali High School recently, the Colony's Finance Minister said:

"We are not in this country by chance and we are not here with old-fashioned ideas of conquest. Our justification is that we are definitely more civilised than the African at present and we are setting a higher standard for him. If we were not here he would fall back to what he was before the white man came. Therefore it is imperative for the white man not to fall back. Anyone who does is letting the whole race down—it is the average that counts in a nation."

"We have a wonderful future in this country. It is all yours to make or break. You will not make it by being very clever nor by being very stupid—it will be made or broken by the average decent sort of bloke."

We have not quite the same problems as Southern Rhodesian boys and girls, but it is true of our country too that its future lies in the hands of "the average decent sort of bloke."

Good Handwriting

ON page 7 we give the names of principal prizewinners in our National Handwriting Test.

The Test, as many thousands of our readers know, consisted of writing this greeting to H R H Prince Charles of Edinburgh:

To Charles, our baby Prince: We, the children, welcome you to our green and pleasant land. We hope that your life will be joyous and that all good gifts will be yours.

The overwhelming response of the schools was proof of the Test's popularity with boys and girls, and the numerous letters received from teachers showed that it had their enthusiastic approval. Many letters told us that the Test has awakened interest in handwriting, an art which has not been truly appreciated in recent years. The general standard of the writing was certainly very high and the judges had no light task in selecting the prizewinners from among the very many thousands of entrants.

All, we hope, found much enjoyment in entering for the Test; and to all we offer our thanks.

IN SHINING ARMOUR



Armour made for the Emperor Maximilian is among the art treasures from Vienna now being exhibited at the Tate Gallery, London. Armour from the Austrian National Collection is also on view at the Tower of London.

JUST AN IDEA

As the poet William Collins wrote, *Peace rules the day where reason rules the mind.*

Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If Londoners are all capital people

MANY people think an end should be made to homework. Most children find the trouble is making a beginning.

MANY modern painters go too far. Don't know where to draw the line.

THE modern schoolgirl hasn't a good carriage. Prefers a bike.

PEOPLE in a country town complain of bad roads. The Council should mend its ways.

A POSTMAN complains that his wages are small. He is trying to get another post.

THINGS SAID

UTOPIA is unobtainable, but if we know the sort of world we want, then at least we can all work for it.

Duke of Edinburgh

Why cannot all scores up to the first 20 for each player be doubled? Instead of a man sitting in his block-hole like the image of Buddha, wearing down the bowling for 20 or 30 overs, he would think... of that lovely idea of perhaps getting twelve runs in a single hit.

Learie Constantine

THE essence of the spirit of freedom is a readiness to insist on the same freedom for others that one claims for oneself.

The Prime Minister

Pies like Mother used to make—50 cents.

Pies like those you think Mother used to make—75 cents.

Canadian advertisement

Safety on the Roads

READERS of Other People's Jobs in the CN last week will realise what splendid work the traffic police are doing in making our roads safer for all users.

Another side of the traffic policeman's work is known in many schools where teams of three or four men in charge of a sergeant give demonstrations of road-safety measures. Thus boys and girls are taught to use pedestrian crossings and how to cross when traffic lights are in their favour, and so on.

But, we regret to have to say it, many parents who have not had the benefit of such expert advice are still inclined to do just those things which the child has been told are wrong; and when this happens in the presence of a young child the value of the police lesson may be lost.

Police lectures for grown-ups, too, would seem to be desirable.

REMEMBRANCE

IN the days of my youth I remembered my God!
And He hath not forgotten my age.

Robert Southey

Editor's Table

A MAN says he likes to know what the common people think. Most of them think they are not common.

A GROCER advertises that he serves his customers with a smile. Suppose they want groceries?

PETERBOROUGH goldfish owners have formed a society. It is going swimmingly.



SCHOOLBOY says he thinks nothing of setting a table. Doesn't even think of it.

Flag of Gratitude

THE sympathy shown to the Unionists by weavers of the Scottish town of Newmilns who formed an Anti-Slavery Society during the American Civil War, at a time when feeling in Britain was mostly against the North, has not been forgotten.

The American flag which Abraham Lincoln presented to the Newmilns weavers as a token of gratitude has been lost; but on Saturday May 28, at the beginning of Newmilns Civic Week, a representative of the American Embassy in London will give the town a new flag, doubtless to have a place of high honour and security in Newmilns Town Hall.

THE TEAM SPIRIT

LESS than two weeks after the start of the cricket season an English record which has stood for 59 years was broken. That was the second-wicket partnership record of 398 runs made by Arthur Shrewsbury and William Gunn of Nottinghamshire in 1890.

The new record-holders are the young University batsmen 22-year-old Hubert Doggart, and 23-year-old John Dewes. Playing for Cambridge University against Essex they made 429 runs, Doggart scoring 219 not out and Dewes 204 not out.

Although they were only 26 runs short of the world record of 455 set up last year by B. B. Nimballkar and K. V. Bhandarkar in India, the university batsmen very sportingly forfeited the chance of beating the record by placing the match before personal honours. After consulting them, the captain decided to declare the innings closed.

In a Wood on a Windy Day

This spirited poem is by Anne Brontë, who died on May 28 just a century ago, when she was only 29.

My soul is awakened, my spirit is soaring
And carried aloft on the wings of the breeze;
For above and around me the wild wind is roaring,
Arousing to rapture the earth and the seas.

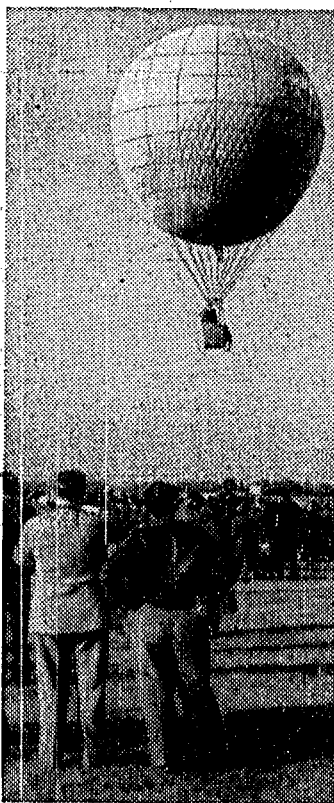
The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing,
The bare trees are tossing their branches on high;
The dead leaves beneath them are merrily dancing,
The white clouds are scudding across the blue sky.

I wish I could see how the ocean is lashing
The foam of its billows to whirlwinds of spray;
I wish I could see how its proud waves are dashing,
And hear the wild roar of their thunder today!

LITTLE BUT IMPORTANT

THE Bee is little among such as fly, but her fruit is the chief of sweet things.

The Apocrypha



Into the Blue

Charles Dollfus, famous French balloonist, makes an ascent with the President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, near Maidenhead.

College Centenary

A NOTABLE centenary this month is that of Bedford College, London, the oldest of the University colleges for women. It was founded in May 1849 by Mrs Elizabeth Reid, a lady with an enthusiasm for "great and good causes," the original intention being to provide culture for girls of the professional and middle classes so that they might make better wives and more understanding mothers.

The four scholarships given by Mrs Reid in 1852 were the first ever offered to women, and a gift of £20 from a minister of religion was said by her to be the only instance she knew of a man giving more than £10 to promote the higher education of women.

A Royal Charter was granted in 1909, and in 1913 it became possible to endow four professorial chairs through the gift by Sir Hildred Carlile of 100,000 guineas, believed to be the largest benefaction ever given to any institution for women's education in Great Britain.

There are now 19 teaching departments, each under the headship of a professor, and over 800 students. Much of the fine premises have been rebuilt since the war.

OIL AIDS GAS SUPPLY

BOTH Manchester and Ellesmere Port are supplementing their normal gas supplies by using residual gases from the oil refining industry. These gases are taken by pipeline from the oil refineries to the respective gas works.

This is a pioneering development which it is believed may be an answer to increasing demands for gas. The Manchester scheme is expected to produce about nine per cent of the total gas made in Manchester, and the Cheshire scheme will save the gas undertaking about 2000 tons of coal a year.

Result and Principal Winners of CN National HANDWRITING TEST

Increased Prize List—Now Over 2000 Awards For Schools and Pupils

THE Children's Newspaper has pleasure in announcing the awards in the recent Handwriting Test in which the test passage was a Message of Good Will to the infant Prince Charles.

The competition created great interest all over Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands, and entries were received from over 11,000 schools and colleges.

In view of the record entry the original Prize List—1018 prizes, totalling over £500 in value—has been greatly increased. Even so, it is realised that many other commendable efforts must go unrewarded. To every entrant the CN sends its thanks and appreciation of good work.

In particular, the Editor wishes to express his appreciation of the invaluable co-operation of teachers. Special congratulations are offered to the schools and scholars named below as winners of the principal awards.

GROUP A (For pupils under 8)

First School Prize of £25 and Pupil's Prize of £5:

ALISON BEVERIDGE of Grange Home School, Edinburgh. (Home address: 2 Craigercock Road, Edinburgh.)

Second Prize—School £10, and Pupil £3:

NORMAN SCRAGG of Trinity Road Primary Boys' School, Chelmsford. (Home address: 9 Barnes Mill Road, Chelmsford, Essex.)

Third Prize—School £5, Pupil £2:

ELISABETH HOWARD of West Hove Primary Infants School, Hove. (Home address: 45 Welbeck Avenue, Hove, Sussex.)

GROUP B (For pupils of 8 to under 11)

First School Prize of £25 and Pupil's Prize of £5:

MARGERY HARRIS of The Park School, Lynedoch Street, Glasgow. (Home address: 1 Main Street, Uddingston, Glasgow.)

Second Prize—School £10, Pupil £3:

CLIVE KENT of Victoria CE Primary School, Berkhamsted. (Home address: 143 George Street, Berkhamsted, Herts.)

Third Prize—School £5, Pupil £2:

MARGARET REYNOLDS of Strand Primary School, Belfast.

(Home address: 23 Káthleen Street, Belfast.)

GROUP C (For pupils of 11 to under 17)

First School Prize of £25 and Pupil's Prize of £5:

JOHN WALLER of Coldfall Primary School, London, N 10. (Home address: 7 Barrenger Road, London, N 10.)

Second Prize—School £10, Pupil £3:

BARBARA GIBBESON of Haberdashers' Aske's School, Acton, W 3. (Home address: 41 Deane Croft Road, Eastcote, Middlesex.)

Third Prize—School £5, Pupil £2:

NEIL MACKENZIE of Hillhead Elementary School, Glasgow, W. (Home address: 105 Baldric Road, Glasgow, W 3.)

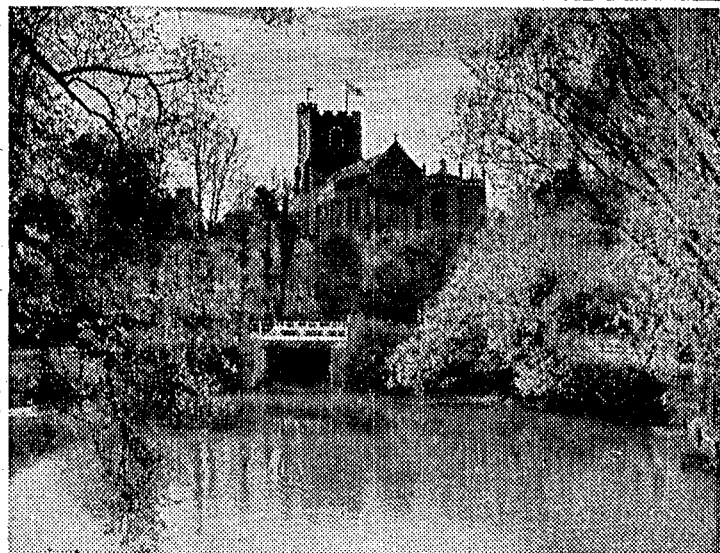
Additional Prizes

As stated above, the prize list has been greatly extended. Six Additional Cash Awards of one guinea being added to the list, while the Consolation Prizes have been doubled in number.

Winners of £1 1s are:

PEGGY RUDDOCK, The Percy Jackson Grammar School, Woodlands, near Doncaster; RALPH HUNTLEY, Woolwich Polytechnic Art School, London, SE 18; GHISLAINE ATKINS, St Joseph's Convent, London, SE 2; CHRISTOPHER BEALES, The College, Bishop's Stortford; CAROL N. VALVONA, Boroughmuir Secondary School, Edinburgh; MARJORIE WATSON, Kirby Secondary Grammar School, Middlesbrough.

The Special Consolation Prizes, increased from 1000 to 2000, consist of Fretwork Sets, Model Theatres, Fountain Pens, Table-tennis Sets, Books, and Boxes of Artists' Colours, and have been awarded in proportion to the numbers of entries received within the three age groups. All these winners are being given choice of prize. We regret that our space does not admit of the printing of so many names and addresses, but the full list of prizewinners may be seen at the CN offices. All prizes will be despatched as soon as possible.



THIS ENGLAND

Springtime by the parish church at Broxbourne, Hertfordshire

Youth at the Museum

CHILDREN have a potential interest in almost everything in a museum, it was said at the recent conference on Children in Museums, held at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London. There delegates from other museums and from educational bodies discussed ideas for catering for children at museums.

Mr J. P. Doncaster said the majority of children come to the museum by themselves, alone or in gangs, often from the poorer parts of London, to have a free show.

The success of the new Children's Centre at the Natural History Museum was described. This is now a permanent feature for boys and girls on Saturdays and during the holidays. In its two rooms, reserved for the young visitors, competitions are held and the specimens on view may be handled. An expert is always in attendance to explain things, answer questions, organise the competitions, and so on. Books may be consulted there and even pencils are provided! It is hoped to form a Children's Club in connection with the Centre.

Dr Hodge of the Leicester Museum said that its school service department in 1947 loaned about 6000 specimens to schools.

SEEING THE TEMPERATURE

WE usually consider temperature as something to be felt and not seen. But a paint, called a phosphor, described by experts of the Eastman Kodak Company's research laboratories at Rochester, New York, turns heat and cold into a light that can be seen, and which a camera can photograph. When an article is painted with phosphor and heated the hot and cold spots show as yellow colours, and the brighter the yellow the cooler is that particular spot.

Heat-indicating paints, are, of course, familiar to every physics student, having been discovered by a Dr Meusel 80 years ago.



Michael Faraday, son of a blacksmith, became errand boy to a bookbinder. One day a customer, seeing him reading about electricity, gave him tickets for Sir Humphry Davy's lectures.

Pioneers

3. MICHAEL FARADAY, a father of electric power

Young Faraday wrote out the lectures in a book, and Sir Humphry Davy was so impressed that he gave Faraday a job as his assistant at a wage of 15s. a week.



Faraday made over 16,000 experiments, and one of his earliest was making electricity by rotating a copper disc between the poles of a large horseshoe magnet.



Electricity is made the same way today, but instead of using a copper disc and a horseshoe magnet, a giant armature is revolved between electric magnets, breaking the current, which is collected by carbon brushes.

BIRDS HAVE MANY KINDS OF CRADLES

THE end of May finds the nesting season nearing its height. Young thrushes, young blackbirds, and young robins are on the wing; but many first nests, even of our commoner resident birds, contain eggs, and the late-arriving summer birds are still largely concerned with nest-building.

On withered bracken, partly screened by young spreading fronds, the nightjar broods two marbled eggs. Why should she bother about a nest? The eggs match their surroundings, or else are hidden by the brown and grey of the bird's plumage. On a field nearby a lapwing has belated eggs; her scoop is almost a nest, for she has drawn around it a circle of bents and straws.

On the dunes a pair of common terns have placed eggs in a slight hollow in the sand, without a fragment of lining or surround; yet where dwarf willows creep over the ground another tern has collected a mass of material. Ringed plovers on the beach show similar irregularity; there are nests neatly paved with fragments of cockles, and another with scallops.

The sand-piper beside the river makes no real nest, but hides its eggs in a hollow beneath growing leaves of waterside plants. Frail-looking is the arboreal platform of the turtle-dove, yet a discarded nest will

survive a winter's storms, so finely are the twigs intertwined.

The sparrow-hawk, well able to build a stable dwelling, avails itself of the remains of an old nest, perhaps of a crow, and thereon places a neat structure of fir twigs; the kestrel, still more anxious for labour-saving, often uses old nests without any addition, as does the brown owl when not occupying a hollow.

Other birds put more work and energy into their domestic

architecture. Even the wayside nests of the hedge-sparrow and greenfinch are neatly and efficiently built, while that of the chaffinch, largely made of moss and decorated with lichens, is a work of art.

The half-formed nests of willow-wren and chaff-chaff, although near the ground, must be overlooked by many a foe or the birds would be less common; eggs and young are visible in their cosy feather-bed, and the nest looks like a ball of dead grass. On the other hand, the wren's sphere or half-sphere, according to its situation, is usually well-hidden, and the larger round nest of the water-loving dipper has an additional protection. Usually built by the stream, sometimes behind a waterfall, its mossy sides are kept fresh and green by spray and drippings from above; it looks like a slight bulge of wet moss, yet no water enters the dry inner nest, so well does the overhanging eave catch and turn the drops.

Large for the size of the bird, yet marvellously hidden, is that of the long-tailed tit; it is a deep nest crowded with feathers, and decorated outside by lichens. Much slighter but showing equal skill is the mossy hammock of the goldcrest, slung beneath a branch of some coniferous tree, spider's silk binding its sides and holding it on the twigs.

Franks, Too?

THE belief that Franks were among our ancestors has been strengthened by relics found in a small cemetery of the Saxon period which was recently excavated at Petersfinger, near Salisbury. It appears that among the invaders who conquered south Wiltshire in the sixth century were people of Frankish origin who may have landed on the Hampshire coast.

One warrior in a grave had an inlaid iron buckle which, it is believed, came from the Rhineland or Belgium, and one of the women wore brooches of an early Frankish type.

This cemetery at Petersfinger resembles another at Sarre in the Isle of Thanet in that one sword was found for every ten graves.

Hurdy-Gurdy at Glyndebourne

A PECULIAR old instrument called a lyra organizata, a kind of hurdy-gurdy, is being played again in this country—at Glyndebourne by Mr John Christie, founder of the Glyndebourne Opera.

The term hurdy-gurdy was widely used when our parents were young for the street mechanical pianos, worked by a handle, which are seldom seen nowadays. But the original hurdy-gurdy is of great antiquity. It was shaped something like a guitar and had a small handle at one end which the player turned with one hand while he manipulated the keys with the other.

In the Middle Ages it was used by simple countryfolk, but it became popular in France in the 18th century, when there was a fashion to imitate supposed rustic manners.

Mr John Christie, on his lyra organizata, plays a divertimento adapted from one of the five concertos which Haydn wrote for the King of Naples in 1786. This king himself played a lyra organizata which had pipes like an organ.

THE HEALTH OF COLOURED RACES

"MEDICAL missionary work among coloured peoples is the greatest influence towards reconciling native and Eastern races to the Western world."

So said Dr H. G. Anderson, medical superintendent of the Church Missionary Society in Sydney, the other day.

Dr Anderson went on to say: "Our establishment of universities in India and China, and the training of doctors, nurses, and laboratory assistants, has done wonders in the prevention of sickness and disease in these countries."

It is as true today as when Wordsworth wrote of "Spontaneous wisdom breathed by health" that individuals and nations can be wise and enlightened only when they are healthy.

ROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS—Jules Verne's Great Story, Told in Pictures

Mr Phileas Fogg, an eccentric Englishman who in 1872 was attempting to travel round the world in 80 days, was approaching Suez in the steamer Mongolia, having

left London 6½ days before. But at Suez Detective Fix was on the look-out for a man who had robbed the Bank of England of £55,000, and for whose capture a reward of

£2000 was offered. Fix intended to have a good look at the passengers of the Mongolia, which was taking on coal at Suez before continuing its voyage to Bombay.



Mr Fogg wished to have his passport signed at Suez to prove he had been there. Jean, his French servant, brought it ashore and asked Fix the way to the passport office. Fix took the passport and, reading the description of Mr Fogg, saw that it was identical with that of the thief he sought! In suppressed excitement he told Jean that his master must come ashore himself to have his passport signed.



When Mr Fogg entered the passport office Fix was standing in a corner. The detective watched him intently. He could not arrest Fogg without a warrant, and this would have to be sent from London. But long before it could arrive at Suez, the Mongolia would have left for Bombay. So Fix boldly decided to telegraph London to send the warrant to Bombay, and to go there himself with Fogg in the Mongolia.



On board the steamer, Fix, without telling Jean that he was a detective, pumped the Frenchman about his master. Jean innocently told him things that made Fix sure that Fogg was the robber, pretending to be an eccentric Englishman trying to go round the world in 80 days. The Mongolia arrived at Bombay two days ahead of time. But the warrant for the arrest of Fogg had not yet arrived.



Jean, sight-seeing by himself, innocently walked into a forbidden temple with his shoes on. Three priests attacked him, but he fought free and darted barefoot to the railway station and told Mr Fogg what had happened. Fix was nearby. He knew it was an offence to violate a temple. Both Jean and his master could be arrested, and then they would be detained in India until the warrant for Fogg came.

Though He is Unaware of It, Mr Fogg's Venture is Now in Grave Danger. See Next Week's Instalment

ANCIENT PLANTS IN THE MISTY ISLE

THE Isle of Skye in western Scotland has been in the news lately in what appears to be a new role. Large deposits of diatomite have been found in Loch Cuiuir towards the north-east of the island. Diatomite was actually taken from this loch many years ago, and J. A. MacCulloch describes very simply and clearly his visit to the workings in his book, *The Misty Isle of Skye*. Thus the discovery is not exactly new; but it is none the less important, for in 1947 this country imported some 50,000 tons of diatomite, and the deposits in Skye are estimated at over 250,000 tons.

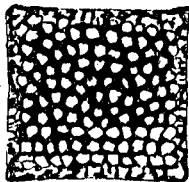
Diatomite is formed at the bottom of the sea, and in lochs, from the dead remains of countless millions of microscopic water plants known as diatoms. These live in all water—salt, fresh, or brackish—if there is light.

Plants are composed of cells, but the diatom is only one cell. It is covered by two valves or shells made of silica, and when the plant dies this covering sinks down to form, with a vast number of its kind, the diatomite or diatom earth.

Each minute diatom is most wonderfully formed and ornamented, and microscopic examination shows them to be among the most beautiful things of Nature. Some of those living in salt water are oval or circular, others are quadrangular or triangular—like the examples shown here, which are, of course, highly magnified—and most of the freshwater varieties are boat-shaped. The latter forms are capable of graceful movement, and this is mysterious, for there is no apparent means of motion.

Diatoms lived in seas that now no longer exist, and their fossil remains are found in huge beds in different parts of the globe. The United States has the largest production of diatom earth in the world.

When the diatomite is dried and purified it becomes like white chalk. Many and varied are its uses, for it is included in the manufacture of such things as insulators, tooth-paste, light bricks, paints, cosmetics, and dynamite, and is also used as a filter in the sugar industry.



A New Bicycle to Win EVERY WEEK

- Weekly Competitions Now in C.N. ... Here's No. 1!
- A BICYCLE for the Winner: 10s NOTES for Others

MORE competition news! Whether you have been enjoying the recent C.N. pictorial competitions, or whether you are a newcomer to our paper, this is something to interest you.

Starting with this week, the C.N. will give you a different competition every week—and every week the top prize will be a New Bicycle. Entry is free, as usual, but entrants must be under 17.

This Week's Competition is THE PUZZLE OF THE C's and N's. You know what these initials stand for specially, but, of course, they also start the names of many other things, too.

All you are asked to do here is to study the picture and try to find 12 Things in it Beginning with C, and 12 Others Beginning with N.

Thus, CLOUD is one of the Cs. There are actually more C and N objects in the sketch than you need to complete this Competition, but you are only asked for 12 of each, mind! Also remember that each object counts once only, even though it may occur several times in the picture.

When you have found the objects, put your name, age, and address at the top right-hand corner of a single sheet of paper—then below in your best writing (or printing) give your 24 answers in two neat columns. Ink or pencil allowed.

Next paste or pin to the sheet the competition token (marked "C.N. Token") which you will find at the foot of the back page of this issue.

Your entry must be signed also by your parent, guardian, or teacher as your own written work, and posted to:

C.N. Competition No. 1,
Room 171, The Fleetway House,
London, E.C.4 (Comp)

to reach this address by FRIDAY, June 3—the closing date.

These competitions are open to all readers under 17 in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands.

This week's Prize Bicycle (junior or full size, as required) will be awarded for the entry which is correct and best written or printed, full account being taken of age. The twenty next-best efforts will each win a 10s Note.

No reader may submit more than one attempt in each week's competition, and a C.N. Token must be attached. The Editor's decision will be final.



C.N. Competition

One of England's Stately Homes

KNOWSLEY HALL, Lord Derby's home near Liverpool, is among the stately-private mansions now open to the public on certain days. It dates from the original house which Thomas Stanley, the first Earl of Derby, enlarged from a hunting box in order to give a worthy reception to Henry VII, later his stepson; and among the rooms which visitors will be able to see are the Royal Suite, the State dining-room, the stucco room, the picture gallery, and the Jacobean room.

Knowsley has a large and valuable library, many sporting relics and records, and a great many paintings, including works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and Gainsborough. In the dining-hall hangs what is probably the finest collection of family portraits in the country, other than those in the royal palaces. One picture by an unknown painter shows Raleigh and Lord Burghley playing cards with two others in a game which no one has yet been able to identify.

Keeper Lear

The thirteenth Earl was keenly interested in animals, and built up the largest private menagerie this country had ever known. Its appointed keeper was Edward Lear, who is perhaps better remembered for the nonsense rhymes he wrote for the Earl's grandchildren.

In the stucco room may be seen the Chinese bowl in which Horace Walpole's favourite cat was drowned when trying to steal one of the goldfish. The incident is immortalised by Thomas Gray in the poem beginning:

*'Twas on a lofty vase's side,
Where China's gayest art had dyed
The azure flowers that blow.*

Of more recent historical interest is the dining-hall, which was the duplicate Operations Room for the Battle of the Atlantic. Knowsley Hall was the alternative headquarters and was guarded by the Royal Marines.

SYDNEY SCHOOL CENTENARY

FORT STREET SCHOOL does not sound imposing or distinguished, yet it is one of Australia's best and most famous educational establishments. The other day it celebrated its centenary in appropriate style.

The old boys of Fort Street School, Sydney, New South Wales, can be numbered in tens of thousands and many of them have reached leading positions in Australia's public life. The girls' school, too, has a high reputation.

Fort Street's most famous headmaster was Alexander James Kilgour, a Scotsman, who was the school's "Boss" from 1905 to 1926. He abolished corporal punishment, and set up a perfect system which ensured good discipline.

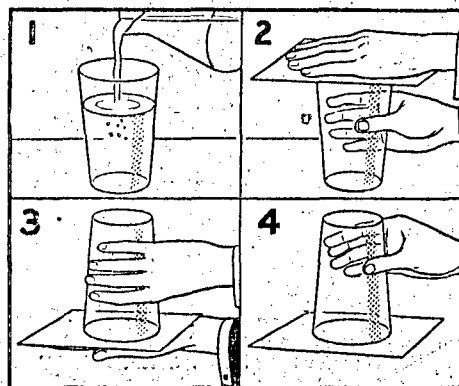
Of Kilgour a writer has recently said: "What Arnold was to Rugby Kilgour was to Fort Street." That is high praise indeed.

BILL AND JILL

Another complete story of the C.N. twins will appear next week.

TRICK TIME for Rowntree's Gumsters

The TOPSY-TURVY Glass of Water



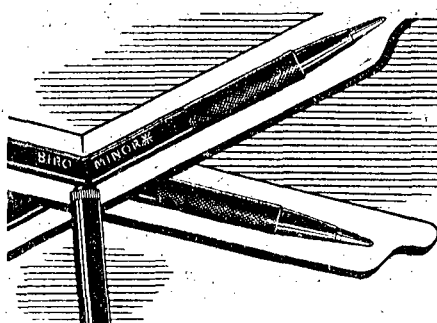
All your friends will gasp when they see you do this trick. Fill a tumbler with water until it is level with the top without overflowing. Cover with a piece of paper making sure no air slips in. Now hold the paper while you

turn the glass upside down. The paper will stay in position. The water will not spill out. For safety, do this over a basin or out-of-doors the first few times! When they ask you how it's done, say it's all a matter of using air pressure.

**Idea! One tube of Rowntree's Fruit Gums will easily last through a whole afternoon's cricket. Can you beat that for 2d?*



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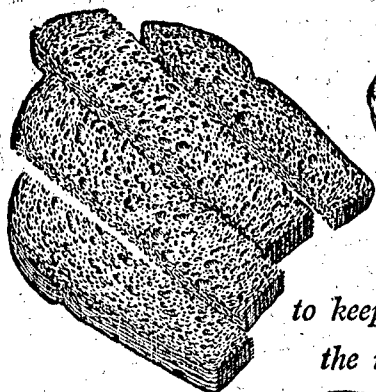
All these improvements in writing are found in the Biro Minor—plus the fact that four colour inks are available: red, green, royal-blue and black. Each Biro Minor is coloured to match the ink inside and you can fit a refill in a flash. A protector cap enables you to carry Minors in your pocket or satchel.

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Write now for these magnificent stamps which you can have **ABSOLUTELY FREE** to improve and add value to your own collection. One stamp is from **SAINT PIERRE and MIQUELON** (as illustrated) and depicts a Team of Newfoundland Dogs harnessed to a sleigh in the Frozen North. Another most interesting stamp depicts **Adolf Hitler**, and was issued during the war by **CZECHOSLOVAKIA** (Bohemia and Moravia). To get these **ABSOLUTELY FREE**, send 3d. stamp to Windsor Stamp Co. for their postages and ask also to see an Approval selection (no obligation to purchase any) and Dog Team and Hitler Free Packet. Send now.
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EX-ARMY BELL TENTS, £5 15s.
Complete, including carriage. All accessories. Cirlo. 44 ft., ht. 9 ft. 6 in.

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18 Thistledeane, East Molesey, Surrey.

The World is Coming to Britain GETTING READY FOR THE TOURISTS

RECORD-BREAKING weeks of tourist "invasion" are coming, writes a CN correspondent. Last year about half a million visitors came to Britain, the biggest number for 28 years, and an extra 60,000 are expected this year. Of these, some 130,000 will be Americans—an increase of 30,000 on last year's figures. The average stay of visitors is expected to last 18 days, compared with five days before the war.

The Americans alone spent about £10,000,000 here last year (when the Olympic Games were a great attraction), compared with £7,500,000 in 1947; and this year they are expected to spend about £13,000,000 in the country, and in British ship and aircraft fares.

Total tourist earnings of British trade, in fact, may well reach £50,000,000 before the last autumn lingerers leave for the United States, France, Switzerland, Scandinavia, South Africa, and elsewhere. This will be a splendid help towards Britain's recovery. By 1952 or 1953 the figure is expected to rise to £65,000,000.

London's New Look

London itself is enjoying a "new look"—it has much fresh paint, the rainbow lights, the fountains among the great admirals and generals in Trafalgar Square, the plumes and bearskins of the King's Men, the fully re-opened Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum busy with its art exhibitions, the new National Gallery of British Sports and Pastimes, and the water-buses. Apart from these, however, what do 1949's visitors expect to get for their dollars and other money that will help Britain so much towards recovery?

There will, of course, be the so-called London Season, which in fact begins with "roses fair at Chelsea" and ends among the breeze-spun spray of Cowes and its shining yachts. But there will be a great deal more than that.

Britain the hostess—still a little weak on her legs—rises to greet her guests. Stratford-on-Avon has begun its season, and the Memorial Theatre there is flooded for the first time since before the war. Bath has an Assembly of the Arts this month. Malvern Festival—20 years old—opens on August 8. This is dedicated to Bernard Shaw, and "Three Decades of Shaw" is its main feature. Wales has her national Eisteddfod during the same month.

Scotland's Challenge

But Scotland is challenging the English and the Welsh. In two brief seasons of Edinburgh's International Festival of Music and Drama, which this year opens on August 21, has established itself as Europe's outstanding cultural event. Last year's attendances of some 227,000 were more than forty-five thousand above those of 1947, and this year they are expected to total a quarter of a million.

Many Americans are making the journey specially for this Festival. We must hope that they will look in at Malvern, and other centres, during their visit.

FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

For the first time in the world's postal history an original postmark—the Maltese Cross used in Manchester 100 years ago to cancel the famous penny black stamp—will be reproduced by special consent of the Postmaster General at the 31st Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, at Southport this week.

The postmark will be in use for four days only, on letters despatched by four hundred Congress delegates through a special post office to be established at the hotel where meetings are being held.

Collectors will consider this postmark among the most valuable ever circulated, for in addition to the Maltese Cross and the date, letters will bear the Manchester cancellation mark although they are actually posted in Southport. This has never happened before. Decorative envelopes in three colours, bearing the Manchester coat-of-arms, have been issued by the Manchester Philatelic Societies, who are hosts for the congress.



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ELECTRICAL MAID

AN electrical maid-of-all-work has been designed which incorporates many gadgets for domestic work in one piece of equipment. It is expected to be in large-scale production at an Oldham factory early in November. The cost without purchase tax will be about £40.

When the machine is closed its appearance resembles a radiogram. When opened it is like a kitchen cabinet with a driving head from which are operated all attachments for tasks such as potato peeling, slicing bread, cleaning pots, shoes, and silver, polishing furniture, drying hair and applying scalp massage, whisking eggs and beating dough. Later on, it is hoped to add appliances to open tins, operate dish and clothes washers, spray paint, and sharpen knives.

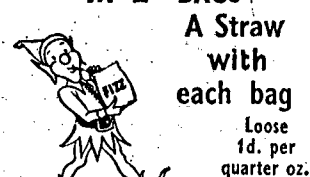
DDT versus Malaria

THE current number of Corona, the journal of the Colonial Service, gives some interesting details of how the use of DDT has worked wonders in bringing malaria under control in British Guiana.

It is the Anopheles Darlingi mosquito that spreads malaria in British Guiana, and it is chiefly found in human habitations. So four years ago the first experiments were made of spraying with a DDT solution the interiors of houses on specially-selected sugar plantations.

As the mosquitoes were cut down to one-fiftieth of their former number, spraying was extended to most of the colony. As a result, the mosquito has almost vanished from many districts, and there is a great improvement in the malaria situation. Insects which carry yellow fever have also been destroyed on a grand scale.

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- 5 History of the Wool Trade.
- 6 History of Wool Textile Processes.

Please write to
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International Wool Secretariat,
Dorland House, Regent St., S.W.1.
E6

A Science-Loving Prince HIS MODELS ON VIEW

WHEN King George III was a boy, in the middle of the 18th century, he was interested in science, and instrument-makers made models and apparatus for him to use in his studies. His collection of these instruments in on view, until the end of September, at the Science Museum, South Kensington.

The King also used them to instruct his own children, and now we may inspect these beautiful devices which fascinated the Royal children between 1750 and 1800.

Historically the collection is of great interest because it illustrates an era when modern physics and chemistry were in their infancy—an era which saw the development of such instruments as the thermometer, and great advances in the study of electricity.

In the collection are two vacuum pumps made by George Adams, mathematical instrument maker to George III, and two fine microscopes constructed about 1750. The young Prince of Wales's laboratory bench, which in those days was called a "Philosophical Table," is also on view. Actually, the course of instruction followed by the young prince, and the experiments carried out, were on the lines laid down nearly 50 years earlier by the Dutch philosopher Gravesande.

We can picture the lonely George William Frederick, who was afterwards to be king for 60 momentous years, gravely experimenting with this equipment, and finding much consolation thereby. He was lonely because his mother secluded him from the company of other boys. He had only his brother Edward to play with.

TWO CUCKOOS IN A NEST

The article on the cuckoo in a recent CN prompted a young Kent reader to send this note.

Two summers ago our neighbour, who is very interested in birds, found a cuckoo's egg in a nest with two hedge-sparrow's eggs. He came back to fetch us to see it. As the woods are just behind our garden, only about fifteen minutes elapsed between the two visits. To our astonishment, on reaching the nest we found that there were now two cuckoo's eggs and one hedge-sparrow's.

I suppose that two different cuckoos had ear-marked the same nest for their eggs, and the second cuckoo would naturally choose one of the hedge-sparrow's eggs to remove, as it would be smaller than the other cuckoo's.

We kept a watch on their progress. Both cuckoos, and the remaining hedge-sparrow were hatched; then one day we found the hedge-sparrow dead at the foot of the bush, and a day or two later one of the cuckoos, presumably the second to be hatched as it would be the weaker, lay dead, too.

TASMANIA RELIC

A stone slab from a Syrian grave of early Christian times has been found in Tasmania. But there is no mystery about it. It was unearthed some years ago by Mr C. G. Robinson when prospecting 50 miles from Damascus, and taken by him and set up in Tasmania. The disastrous floods of 1929 swept it away, but now it has been rediscovered. The inscription, in ancient Greek, reads: Christ most sweet and mild, Thou shalt live for ever.

BEDTIME CORNER

Stephen Stickleback

STEPHEN Stickleback lived in the Willow Walk stream. When the water buttermilk came out he put on his smart spring suit. It was red underneath and bright green along the back, and it made him look much handsomer than his little brown wife.

He wasn't in the least conceited about this, however, but began bustling about getting the nest built for his wife. He collected bits of water weed and wove them into a bag-shaped nest with a front door and a back door, so that the water could flow straight through. And he anchored it to a clump of pond weed.

"There you are, my dear," he said. "It's all ready for you."

So Mrs Stickleback swam into the nest, poked about a bit to see if it was well made, and presently laid her eggs there. Then she swam away without bothering any more about them!

But Stephen Stickleback was not at all upset, for it was the custom in the Stickleback families for the fathers to look after the eggs till they hatched.

So round and round the nest he swam; and after a while a big fish came goggling up.

"You just goggle off!" said Stephen, darting at him with his three spines sticking up on his back like fur on an angry cat. And he looked so ferocious that the fish went away.

Then back to the nest Stephen went and fanned the water more quickly through it with his fins to keep the eggs cool. But soon a water spider came sidling up.

"You just sidle off!" said Stephen, his eyes flashing bright green. And the spider was frightened and went away.

So each day Stephen guarded and fanned the eggs till they hatched into baby fish. Then he was at last free.



Ask your

Mum for

SHREDDED

WHEAT

that's the food the strong men eat!

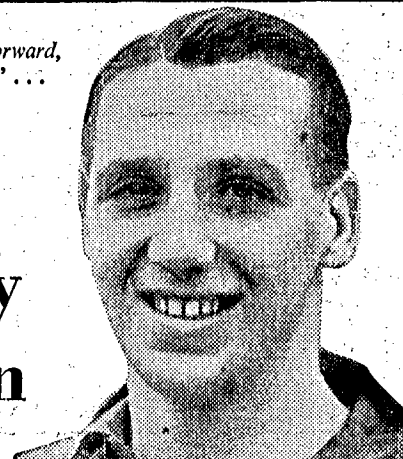


Make more muscle with
Welgar Shredded
Wheat—eat it
every day! Crisp,
golden, sun-ripened
wheat, that's the stuff
for strong men. It's
nourishing as well as
nice!

Brilliant England centre-forward,
the 'wisest head in Soccer'...

Tommy Lawton

SAYS



"Here's how I cross roads..."

"Fancy foot-work scores on the football-field, where you want to confuse the other side's halves and backs. But on the road, confusion is the last thing you want—it's much too dangerous. Head-work is the thing, when you're crossing a street. Here's how I do it:

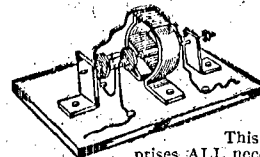
- 1 At the kerb—HALT.
- 2 Eyes—RIGHT.
- 3 Eyes—LEFT.
- 4 Glance again—RIGHT.
- 5 If all clear—QUICK MARCH.

Quite calm, no running and dodging, because I wait for a proper gap in the traffic first.

"If you misjudge things in Soccer—well, you're very seldom hurt, anyway. But if you take chances in traffic, and a car or lorry charges you, you may be killed. And the same accident may kill other people. So watch your step, be a good Road Navigator, and cross all streets the Kerb Drill way."

T Lawton

BOYS! ELECTRIC MOTOR OUTFIT



2/11
Post 3d.
Works from
Torch Battery

This outfit comprises ALL necessary parts and base ready for simple assembly by any boy to make this working Electric Motor exactly as illustrated. Apart from its novelty, this has very considerable technical and constructive value. More can be learnt from it regarding Electric Motors than by reading volumes. A most instructive and entertaining toy for boys—complete with diagrams and easy instructions. Send P.O. 3/2. Direct only from:

Wm. PENN, LTD. (Dept. CW/14),
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NO CLOCKWORK—NO FUEL—NO BATTERY
This new Ray-powered Motor-Car is a most amazing novelty toy. Car is propelled by the unseen harmless rays emitted from the Ray-Control Stick. To see the car going in this way will astonish and mystify your friends. A most fascinating toy. In box with directions. Send NOW P.O. or stamps 3/8 to:

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EX-COMMANDO & R.A.F. FISHING OUTFIT

Ex-Govt. Stock at fraction of production cost, comprises:
Line Winder with 60 ft. extra strong flax. Running Line, Sliding Float, 3 Lead Sinkers, 2 Gut Casts, 4 Gut Hooks, Preserved Bait, Fly, Spinning Spoon, 3-hook Bel Tackle, including one tackle ready for use, Spring Rod End Ring to attach to any bough or rod. With easy directions to Post 3d. Send 4/- P.O. or stamps to:

Wm. PENN, LTD. (Dept. CW/6),
585 High Road, Finchley, London, N.12

THE BRAN TUB

DISCORD

THE guest was settling his hotel bill as he prepared to leave. "Your hotel reminds me of music," he said to the manager. "Really, sir! Because it soothes the senses?" "No. Because it's a vile inn."

COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

Tormentil

THE diminutive Tormentil is usually found on heaths and dry banks. Its four bright yellow petals form a kind of Maltese cross. The leaves generally grow in groups of three, and their edges are very jagged. Those growing on the lower part of the stems have stalks, but the leaves higher up are sessile, which means stemless.

Tormentil is a member of the rose family. The root of the plant contains a considerable quantity of tannin.

Gnu Look

CRIED a jolly old fellow named Mack, "As business is terribly slack, I'll go to the Zoo, Take a look at the Gnu, And perhaps have a ride on its back."

SAGE ADVICE

MANY years ago a farmer left 17 cows to his three sons. In his will he directed that one-half of them should go to his eldest son, one-third to the next son, and one-ninth to the youngest son.

The three young men pondered for some time but they could see no way of complying with their father's wishes. Obviously, they did not want to kill any of the cattle. Finally, they went to the village sage and presented their problem to him. He thought for a while, then showed them a way out of their dilemma which proved satisfactory to all three. What did the sage suggest?

He lent the sons one of his own cattle. The eldest then took nine, the next son took six, and the youngest two. The sage took back his own cow.

Jacko Extends a Watery Welcome



Jacko decided that the flowers needed a little water.



But that could not truthfully be said of Professor Pongo.



But he got it—whether he needed it or not.

Castles in the Air

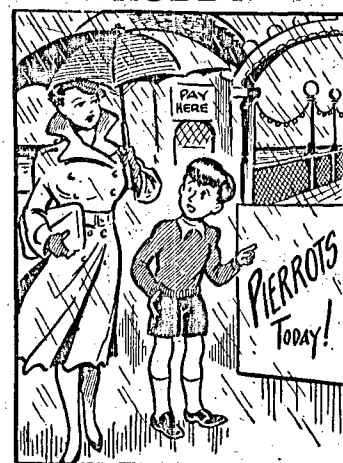
WHEN a person is said to be building castles in the air or castles in Spain he is day-dreaming. This comes from the old French expression *châteaux en Espagne*, a saying common in France when the aristocracy were led to desert the cause of the rightful Prince by vain hopes of promotion in Spain.

POSTSCRIPT

"IN speaking of this Bill before Congress you mention a 'rider.' What is a rider?" asked Mary.

"A rider," replied the Senator, "is like the postscript to many a letter—apparently an afterthought, but in fact the most important part of the communication."

RODDY



"I suppose that's because they have left it out for so long in the rain, Mummie?"

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Rascals Red and Grey. "There's a red squirrel," said Don. "Where?" exclaimed Ann delightedly. "It was in the apple tree, but you've scared it. Look, there it goes." Ann just caught a glimpse of Master Squirrel before he vanished into the woods.

"Yes, they are pretty, but I wish they would leave my fruit buds alone," grumbled Farmer Gray, hearing of the plunderer.

"I thought it was grey squirrels which were so destructive," said Don.

"Grey ones are worse," replied Farmer Gray, "chiefly because they are much bolder and multiply more rapidly. The red variety are not free from sin, but, of course, everyone likes to see such attractive rascals."

Plane Talk

"WHAT an irritating fellow that pilot is," said Bill. "He certainly is. Why, he even makes the aeroplanes soar."

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, May 25, to Tuesday, May 31.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Man with Two Ears—a story; St Louis High School Choir, Kilkeel. 5.30 For Your Bookshelf. N. Ireland, 5.30. About an Elephant—a story. North, 5.30 Books Worth Reading. Welsh, 5.0 Muggins in the Springtime; Music by Neath Girls' Grammar School.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Pinocchio (4). 5.30 The Would-be-Goods (4). N. Ireland, 5.0 Nature Quiz. North, 5.30 Nature Quiz. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh. 5.30 I Saw Snakes—a talk; Piano.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Stella Polaris (6). 5.40 Bows and Arrows—a talk.

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Scatterbrook Flower Show. 5.40 How Rombi Earned a Wife. N. Ireland, 5.0 This Week's Events; Songs; Piano. North, 5.0 Jimmy Squarefoot—a story; Young Manx Artists; Books Worth Reading.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Rock of Ages (7). North, 5.0 The Isle of Man—a talk. Scottish, 5.0 Musical Festival Winners.

MONDAY, 5.0 This Week's Programmes. 5.5 Nursery Programme. 5.40 History Competition. Midland, 5.0 Park Secondary Modern Girls' School, Dudley, Choir; A Story. N. Ireland, 5.0 This Week's Programmes; Shane's Castle—a play. North, 5.5 A Nursery Sing-Song; Isle of Man Quiz. Scottish, 5.5 Songs and their Stories. 5.20 Nature Scrapbook.

TUESDAY, 5.0 A Nursery Programme. 5.25 Nature Parliament. N. Ireland, 5.0 A Mr Murphy and Timothy John story; Phelim and the Hare; Nature Diary; Duets. Scottish, 5.0 Tales of a Wandering Cat; Down at the Mains. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh.

WELSH TOWNS

In the following verse are hidden the names of eight Welsh towns. Can you find them?

I PAUSE beneath the spreading tree,
I listen by the waterfall,
And then upon a flinty rock
I sit and dream, old times recall.
The swans each circling movement make
With balanced ease and grace,
In very truth I now revere
This holy, well-loved place.

Answer next week

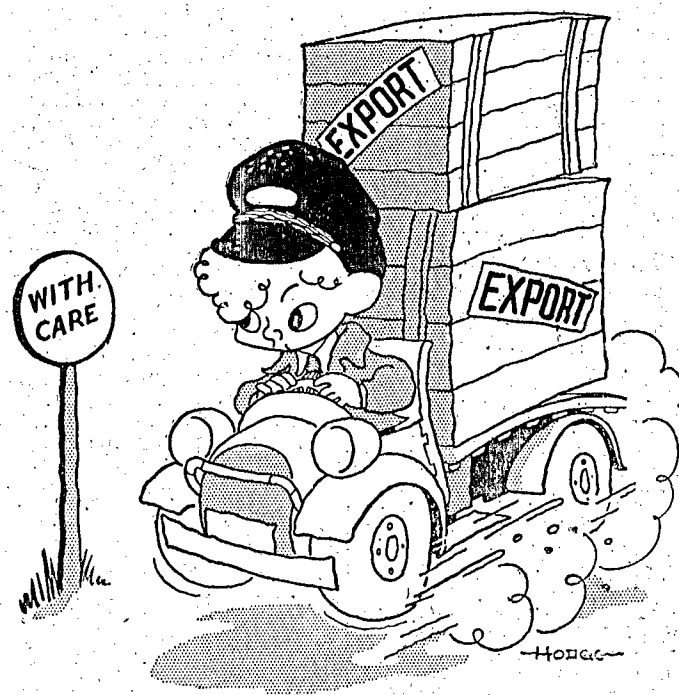
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Enigma. Wind (win)

Yorkshire Rivers, Rye, Ouse, Esk, Burn, Aire, Ure, Dearne, Don

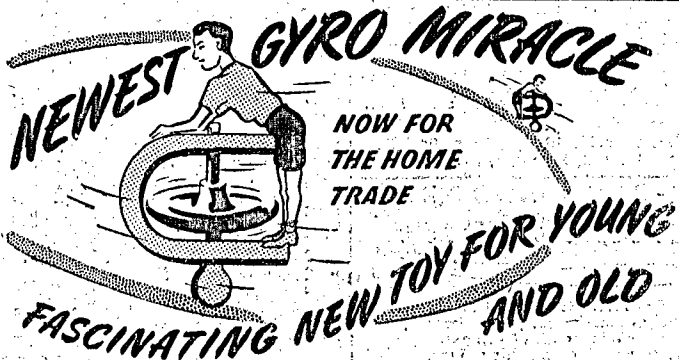
AFT	PASS
IN	ORAL
MA	RENAMED
PA	EA
EDIT	NAIL
RAG	PENCE
IGNITED	R
AI	CODE
LORE	YRS

BRITAIN'S NEED IS SPEED!



THE WORD FOR Toffee

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD. of Maidstone "THE TOFFEE SPECIALISTS"



This fascinating Toy has a Track 2 ft. in Diameter, yet it can be carried in the pocket. It provides hours of fun for the whole family.

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COOK BROS.

44 LYTHAM ROAD, BLACKPOOL, LANCs.

GOOD AT RIDDLES?

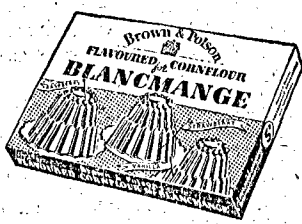
Eaten for goodness and also for fun;
Begins with a 'B' but isn't a Bun;
Comes in three flavours—a triple treat.
That's easy to make and hard to beat.

YOU'RE RIGHT—IT'S

Brown & Polson Flavoured Cornflour for BLANCMANGE

Strawberry, Raspberry & Vanilla

This is Brown & Polson's world-famous Cornflour with highest quality flavourings added. That's why the blancmanges and sweet sauces it makes are so good, so appetising and so delicious. Supplies are short, but you may be lucky if you keep on asking.



BY APPOINTMENT CORNFLOUR

MANUFACTURERS TO H.M. THE KING

CN token

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